**COVID-19 update**

**Information correct as of 3pm 13 May 2020**

**In this edition**

* Updates to the RSS COVID-19 web page
* Imaging / Radiology
* Medicines and prescribing

**Attachments**

* None

All information provided in the COVID-19 bulletin is hosted online at <https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/rss/home/infections-and-microbiology/covid-19/>

**Updates to the RSS COVID-19 web page**

Pharmacy

[Vale of York Pharmacy closures and changes of hours - latest position](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3632&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1)

Mental health

[North Yorkshire & York Mental Health All Age Crisis & Support TEWV Contacts](https://voyrss.necsu.nhs.uk/tewv-partners-north-yorkshire-york-contact-details.pdf) (only available via N3 connection)

Volunteer responders

[NHS Volunteer responders: referrals](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3887&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1)

**Imaging / Radiology**

YTHFT is working to respond to the Second Phase of NHS Response to COVID letter (29/4/20) and will clarify asap when they can re-start direct access x-ray and provide increased capacity for other imaging and radiology **safely** for their staff and patients.

In the meantime all direct access to plain film (x-ray) **is closed** and electronic referrals for X-rays need to be sent through for a booked appointment. There are still some patients arriving at x-ray without a booked appointment and this creates a potential infection control risk for both patients and staff. Please minimise requests for imaging to essential and urgent requests wherever possible.

**Medicines and prescribing**

**Valproate Pregnancy Prevention Programme**

MHRA has provided [temporary advice for the management of the valproate pregnancy prevention programme during Covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/valproate-pregnancy-prevention-programme-temporary-advice-for-management-during-coronavirus-covid-19). This guidance has also been sent to relevant secondary care colleagues.

**Drug Monitoring**

Please continue to refer to the NHS Specialist Pharmacy Services website regarding guidance/advice on extending the monitoring period of certain medicines. The website was last updated 28.04.2020. A username and password is required to access SPS.

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/drug-monitoring-in-primary-care-for-stable-patients-during-covid-19/>

**Guidance on dealing with patient-returned / unwanted medicines**

Community Pharmacies have been issued with [guidance on how to deal with patient returned medicines](https://www.npa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-guidance-on-dealing-with-patient-returned-medicines-ENGLAND-May-2020.pdf). This is being sent to all Community Pharmacies in North Yorkshire and York (7 May). Recent infection control issues have required changes to the guidance in how this is managed safely. We appreciate GP practices are often asked about this and they should now be able to advise patients with confidence that they can contact their regular Community Pharmacy for this purpose.  Dispensing doctors may wish to consider this guidance for medicines returned by their dispensing patients.

**Ranitidine, Sulfasalazine oral suspension and Propantheline Shortages**

[Medicine supply notification: Sulfasalazine oral suspension](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3884&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1)

[Medicine supply notification: Propantheline](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3885&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1)

[Medicine supply notification: Ranitidine - All formulations](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3883&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1&inline=1)